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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the sixth session
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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session and provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session;

(b) Decides that the seventh session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
10. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
11. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.

13. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.

14. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.

15. Programme management report (Secretariat).

16. Provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts.

17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its seventh session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

6/101
Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Noted with satisfaction the full establishment of all five regional technical committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, bringing rich and important regional perspectives to the consideration of global geospatial issues, and expressed its appreciation for the high level of their engagement with and active contributions to the work of the Committee of Experts at the global level;

(b) Noting that a plenary meeting of each of the regional committees will be convened in the coming months, encouraged the strengthening of interregional collaborations between relevant working groups and tasks and of linkages with their respective regional commissions and with regional statistical committees;

(c) Congratulated the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas for their successful transition from the regional cartographic conferences to the regional architecture of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management;

(d) Noted with appreciation the significant efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa in convening the highly successful fourth High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 22 April 2016, and the issuance of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management towards Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts towards increased regional cooperation and the important focus on capacity development, including the Caribbean project led by Mexico and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council supported by the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific, and

recognized that more needs to be done to increase and strengthen capacity development and regional cooperation in geospatial information management;

(f) Welcomed the three reports of the thematic groups[1] (the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network), and expressed its appreciation for their valuable contributions and commitment to Member States, the Committee's programme of work and the global geospatial information agenda;

(g) Noting that the 2030 Agenda calls for stronger public-private partnerships in order for new data sources and technologies to be harnessed, agreed to the establishment of the Academic Network and the Private Sector Network, and requested both networks to clarify and refine their terms of reference, taking into account all comments from the Committee, and thereafter to submit their revised terms of reference to the Bureau for its consideration and endorsement.

6/102
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame[2] and associated development of the road map on the global geodetic reference frame presented by the working group, and commended the working group for its considerable work and achievements and broad consultations;

(b) Endorsed the road map for the global geodetic reference frame as a principle-based briefing document for national Governments, and in this regard:

(i) Commended the efforts of the working group to balance the technical geodetic detail with relevant means for determining policy consideration and implementation;

(ii) Acknowledged the aim of the road map to address five key elements of action relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, namely geodetic infrastructure; data sharing, policies, standards and conventions; education, training and capacity-building; communication and outreach; and governance;

(iii) Welcomed the development of an implementation plan to ensure that the recommendations contained in the road map are linked to national policy developments in the area of geodesy;

(c) Noting the need for an appropriate governance structure in order to effectively implement the road map for the global geodetic reference frame, particularly with respect to its being owned and driven by Member States,

[1] See E/C.20/2016/3.
[2] See E/C.20/2016/4.

agreed that the Committee of Experts should be the appropriate intergovernmental mechanism for such a governance structure;

(d) Recognizing the critical importance of such a governance structure, supported the suggestion to strengthen the working group's mandate through the establishment of a subcommittee on geodesy, to provide the required stability and longer-term planning for the global geodetic reference frame;

(e) Requested that the subcommittee determine its modalities and methods of work, including assuming the roles of the working group, and develop a position paper to define the appropriate governance arrangements for the global geodetic reference frame, while balancing the sustainability, investment and data-sharing needs;

(f) Also requested the subcommittee to continue its outreach and communication, particularly with appropriate regional initiatives and activities, and to report back to the Committee at its next session on its progress towards developing an implementation plan for the global geodetic reference frame;

(g) Acknowledging the importance of reaching out to broader communities to raise awareness on the importance of the global geodetic reference frame, urged Member States to translate the road map into their own languages and submit the translations to the Secretariat to be posted on the Committee's website.

6/103
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report[3] of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe and its leadership of the working group on global fundamental geospatial data, and noted the progress in addressing the issues relating to global fundamental geospatial data themes;

(b) Encouraged Member States and regional committees to continue to interact with the working group in its work on determining fundamental geospatial data themes and to participate further in the discussions in order to develop agreement on a minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes, giving particular consideration to the special needs of developing countries to be able to measure and monitor the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;[4]

(c) Took note of the working group's efforts to produce a draft minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes and to arrive at a commonly agreed high-level approach and description of each theme and its prioritization for consideration by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session, with the possibility of taking global agreement on these data themes forward at an appropriate time;

[3] See E/C.20/2016/5.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

(d) Affirmed the view of the working group that national and regional fundamental geospatial data themes initiatives should be the basis for developing agreement on a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes, and noted the need to ensure that efforts are kept technical in nature so as not to raise political concerns;

(e) Noted the suggestions to consider the need to better define "fundamental data", their harmonization, definitions and prioritization at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and to define what role they play;

(f) Also noted the importance of the availability of global Second Administrative Level Boundaries data for countries, and encouraged Member States to continue to contribute to the Second Administrative Level Boundaries project;

(g) Further noted the need for land cover and its measurement as a fundamental data theme, owing to its cross-cutting importance to many areas of environmental monitoring and reporting, particularly in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that such data are not readily and consistently available in terms of both geographic scope and classifications, and that the secretariats of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and the Group on Earth Observations are considering the preparation of a joint strategy for progressing the development of this theme.

6/104
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Noted the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements,[5] including the annexes contained in the background document, and expressed its appreciation to other working groups of the Committee of Experts and international organizations with first-hand experience of the issues for providing valuable contributions to the methodology development phase;

(b) Recognized the complex and broad scope of the work that the working group is undertaking, especially in view of the fact that there is no single universal solution or model that fits all countries, and commended the working group for its considerable efforts in formulating the indicators for assessing geospatial national institutional arrangements, and encouraged the use and promotion of good-practice case studies to demonstrate the diversity of the institutional landscape;

(c) Acknowledged that open data, data-sharing policies and the use of volunteered geographic information are critical to advancing the use of geospatial information, but noted that these issues are beyond the scope of the work of the working group and would be better addressed by other working areas within the Committee of Experts, such as legal and policy frameworks, fundamental geospatial data themes and the integration of statistical and geospatial information;

[5] See E/C.20/2016/6.

(d) Reiterating the need to provide Member States with options on how best to create robust national geospatial institutional structures, encouraged the working group to continue its work in close consultation with the global geospatial community and, in order to give the work greater focus, to report on its progress to the Bureau prior to presenting it to the Committee at its next session.

6/105
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors;[6]

(b) Noted that it is essential that any legal and policy frameworks that could have an impact on geospatial information be developed in partnership with the geospatial community, the legal community and other related areas of work of the Committee;

(c) Welcomed the convening of the International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur on 18 and 19 October 2016 in collaboration with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific as a means to provide a suitable opportunity to open the dialogue on the issues and challenges of this topic to all stakeholders;

(d) Noted the valuable suggestions to consider a number of legal and policy issues, including:

(i) Imagery acquisition restrictions for aircraft;

(ii) Data resources, access and security;

(iii) The emerging cultural change in broad open-data policies;

(iv) Global policies and guidelines for the licensing and use of unmanned aerial systems, including interactions with the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(v) Data ownership and use by indigenous communities;

(vi) Data sharing and procurement within legislative processes;

(vii) Assisting the development of funding proposals through economic appraisals;

(e) Welcomed offers of assistance to, and support for, the substantive programme of the International Forum, including through the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

[6] See E/C.20/2016/7.

6/106
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report on implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community[7] as presented, and expressed its appreciation to the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization for their continuing support and valuable work;

(b) Also welcomed feedback by Member States on their use of the "Guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management" and the "Technical compendium" documents on standards, as well as their experiences in their national implementation of standards;

(c) Noted that the Sustainable Development Goals are stimulating needs for new or modified standards, including with specific-domain working groups and the broader standards community, and encouraged Member States to review their standards and interoperability requirements in this regard and to consider how they can participate;

(d) Also noted that there are enabling technologies, trends and standards in the geospatial industry that are creating possibilities for better measurement and monitoring of global efforts in sustainable development, and invited the standards organizations to provide regular updates on these developments;

(e) Noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by the joint study group in developing guidance for the use of geospatial standards to support the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(f) Acknowledged the significant contribution of Norway to Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization in managing and guiding the Technical Committee since 1994, and welcomed the role of Sweden as the incoming Chair of the Technical Committee.

6/107
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Congratulated the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, under the leadership of Australia and Mexico, for the significant progress achieved in this critically important work, and welcomed in particular the global consultation on the global statistical geospatial framework, which has produced a substantial number of responses from both the geospatial and statistical communities;

(b) Reiterated that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population censuses are important drivers for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in support of evidence-based decision-making across many sectors, whether public or private, at the national and

[7] See E/C.20/2016/8.

global levels, and for increased institutional coordination and cooperation between the geospatial and statistical agencies and other stakeholders;

(c) Noted the various specific comments and suggestions on related technical, legal and policy issues for further deliberation on the global statistical geospatial framework and requested the Expert Group to take them into account, and welcomed in this context the offer by many Member States to share their specific experiences;

(d) Recognized the importance of the continuing work of the Expert Group, with a focus on consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, and, with respect to implementation, encouraged the Expert Group to focus on capability-building, knowledge management and sharing of good practices, for example, use of technological tools, and, with respect to consolidation, strongly encouraged the Expert Group to build on the work done by other bodies at the global and regional levels and to enable them in turn to build on the work of the Expert Group;

(e) Agreed to the amended terms of reference of the Expert Group with regard to its composition and terms of office and to the proposal to retain the current Co-Chairs for an additional three-year term;

(f) Adopted the five guiding principles as referenced in the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information[8] as the foundation of the global statistical geospatial framework, and looked forward to progress on the framework being reported to both the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at their next sessions in 2017.

6/108
Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management,[9] and thanked the expert group on the progress made in finalizing its terms of reference and in developing an initial action plan;

(b) Noted with appreciation the substantive technical contributions of the expert group and its international partners in the convening of the fourth High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 22 April 2016, focused on good land governance, and the issuance of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management: Towards Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard, noted the intention of the expert group to review and incorporate within its action plan key operative elements of the Declaration;

(c) Agreed that a major function of the expert group is to address governance, data management, adoption of institutional frameworks and technology, and sustainability related to the implementation of efficient and

[8] See E/C.20/2016/9.
[9] See E/C.20/2016/10.

effective land administration and management systems and, in this context, their linkages to relevant aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Encouraged the expert group to address the issue of fit-for-purpose land and geospatial information required to support effective and efficient land administration and management to address the need to secure land and property rights for all;

(e) Noting the suggestions made by Member States, encouraged the expert group to contribute to the work of other groups of the Committee of Experts, where relevant, so as to align its action plan and subsequent activities with the 2030 Agenda and its global indicator framework;

(f) Recognized the need to consider the marine environment — shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans — as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration and management of land, marine spaces and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States;

(g) Endorsed the terms of reference of the expert group, and encouraged it to engage and consult broadly with Member States and its international partners when finalizing the action plan;

(h) Noting that the expert group plans to develop further key elements of its action plan in the coming months, requested the expert group to report progress on activities, including considering capacity development and the adoption of appropriate technologies, process and standards, to the Committee of Experts at its next session, and encouraged Member States and the regional committees to participate in these activities to ensure broad geographic participation.

6/109
Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the task team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal indicators,[10] and thanked the task team for its considerable efforts, under the leadership of Denmark, in actively engaging in and contributing to the work of the statistical community, at both the national and global levels, by providing geospatial inputs into the processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

(b) Commended the task team, whose strategic vision, outreach and communication efforts were essential in promoting understanding of the importance and value of geospatial information, Earth observations and other data in securing new and consistent data sources and methodologies to integrate multiple location-based and disaggregated variables to support and inform official statistics and the 2030 Agenda;

[10] See E/C.20/2016/11.

(c) Welcomed the creation of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information, established in recognition of the fact that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data is key to the development of a number of the global indicators, and supported the terms of reference and composition of the Working Group;

(d) Endorsed the proposal that the task team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, having fulfilled its short-term aims and objectives, be disbanded and that the Committee of Experts focus its activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda through the efforts of the Working Group on Geospatial Information, supporting the development of the three tiers and associated relevant factors as well as metrics for the global indicator framework;

(e) To ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial community is maintained and remains rigorous, requested the Working Group on Geospatial Information to provide annual status reports on its progress to the Committee of Experts;

(f) Noted the progress made by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe working group on data integration, particularly its aim to ensure that the Working Group on Geospatial Information has access to the Regional Committee's existing work and ongoing working mechanisms in Europe related to the monitoring of indicators;

(g) Encouraged other regional committees and Member States to embark on similar initiatives and national and interregional exchanges and cooperation, including with the statistical community, towards better integration of processes for measuring and monitoring relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

6/110
Geospatial information and services for disasters

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters,[11] and commended the working group's review of existing frameworks, rules and policies and the considerable progress in developing and refining the draft strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters 2016-2030;

(b) Acknowledged the five priorities for action to ensure that the draft strategic framework is effectively implemented across the multiple levels of decision-making, these being governance and policies, awareness-raising and capacity-building, data management, common infrastructure and services, and resource mobilization;

(c) Recognized that, at an appropriate time, robust plans for capacity-building and resource mobilization will be necessary to assist developing

[11] See E/C.20/2016/12.

countries and small island developing States in ensuring the availability and accessibility of adequate, reliable and standards-based geospatial information across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management;

(d) In the light of growing climate vulnerabilities and the fact that no single country is immune to disasters that have a direct impact on life and property, encouraged Member States to leverage the draft strategic framework to prove the critical importance of an integrated approach to using geospatial information, and urged Member States to examine and adopt geospatial data, technology and standards processes being implemented within the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative;

(e) Proposed that, upon its completion and implementation, the strategic framework be considered by Member States as a guide for their respective national and regional activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle;

(f) Welcomed the efforts of the working group in preparing for the International Forums on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, to be convened in Bridgetown in September 2016 and in Kunming, China in May 2017, and in continuing to enable the geospatial community to engage with disaster, emergency management and humanitarian experts, and encouraged Member States to participate actively in the work of the working group;

(g) Noted the intention of the working group to prepare and draft a resolution on the implementation of the strategic framework for consideration by the Committee of Experts and for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at a suitable time;

(h) In the light of the important complementary work currently being conducted by regional committees, including the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, encouraged the working group to continue to work closely on these activities as it pursues its contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.[4]

6/111
Knowledge base for geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on new developments with regard to the knowledge base for geospatial information management,[12] expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for supporting and maintaining the knowledge base portal, and concurred that knowledge sharing is a valuable and practical element of the Committee's work;

(b) Gratefully acknowledged the offers by Member States, regional committees and international organizations to provide additional content;

[12] See E/C.20/2016/13.

(c) Requested the Secretariat to continue supporting, maintaining and improving the knowledge base portal, in close cooperation with the secretariats of the regional committees and the international organizations concerned.

6/112
Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information,[13] and requested the Secretariat to continue conducting the analysis of the United Nations system-wide consultation in the form of a questionnaire in order to provide an overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner and to report the results back to the Committee at its next session;

(b) Took note of the ongoing work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names towards modernizing its working methods and strengthening its relationship with the Committee of Experts regarding place names, and requested the Bureau to engage in a dialogue with a view to defining an effective relationship between the two bodies and how best to use the opportunity of back-to-back sessions in 2017.

[13] See E/C.20/2016/14.

Chapter II

Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda

3. The Committee of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st and 2nd meetings, held on 3 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat compiled on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.* Each of the Chairs made introductory statements.

4. At the 1st meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made a statement.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Austria, Chile and New Zealand and by the observers for the Group on Earth Observations and the University of Los Andes.

6. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Australia, Canada, Austria, Italy, Brazil, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Slovenia, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, the United States of America, Jamaica, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Tunisia and New Zealand, and by the observer for Carleton University.

7. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

8. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/101).

B. Global geodetic reference frame

9. The Committee of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 3 August 2016. It had before it the report of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame.* The Co-Chair of the working group made an introductory statement.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand, Japan, Belgium (on behalf of EuroGraphics), Sweden, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Norway, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Jamaica, Canada, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Germany, Slovenia, Brazil, France and Finland, and by the observers for the International Organization for Standardisation, EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors and the Group on Earth Observations.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

12. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/102).

C. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

13. The Committee of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.* The Chair of the Regional Committee and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Jamaica, Norway, Brazil, Ethiopia, Austria, Italy, Canada and Suriname, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the International Federation of Surveyors and the Group of Earth Observations.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

16. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/103).

D. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

17. The Committee of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements.* The Chair of the working group made an introductory statement.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Norway and the United Kingdom, and by the observer for ConsultingWhere Ltd.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

20. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/104).

E. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

21. The Committee of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data,* prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy. The Secretariat made introductory statements.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore, and by the observers for Carleton University, ConsultingWhere Ltd. and Geospatial Media and Communications (Pty.) Ltd.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

24. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/105).

F. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

25. The Committee of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.[6] The Executive Director for Communications and Outreach of the Open Geospatial Consortium made an introductory statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Madagascar, Chile, Belgium, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom, and by the observers for the International Organization for Standardization and Carleton University.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

27. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

28. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/106).

G. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

29. The Committee of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.* The Co-Chair of the Expert Group made an introductory statement.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Cuba, Slovenia, Chile, Australia, Denmark, the Republic of Korea, Poland, China, Belgium (on behalf of Eurogeographics), Sweden, the United States, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Brazil, New Zealand, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, Malaysia, Cambodia, the Republic of Moldova, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Italy, Austria and the Bahamas, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the Open Geospatial Consortium, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, Esri and Carleton University.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

32. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2-16, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/107).

H. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

33. The Committee of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the report of the expert group on land administration and management on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.* The Chair of the expert group made an introductory statement.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Suriname, the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, Malaysia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Brazil, Saint Lucia and Ethiopia, and by the observers for the International Organization for Standardization, the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Federation of Surveyors and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

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35. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

36. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/108).

I. Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

37. The Committee of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 3 August 2016. It had before it the report of the task team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal indicators on the activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other information.* The Chair of the task team made an introductory statement.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, Chile, Sweden, Australia, Mexico, the United States, Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Canada, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat) and Carleton University.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

39. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/109).

J. Geospatial information and services for disasters

40. The Committee of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 3rd and 4th meetings, held on 4 August 2016. It had before it the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.* The Co-Chairs of the working group made introductory statements.

41. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Antigua and Barbuda, Ethiopia, Japan, Sweden, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Belize, New Zealand, the Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Italy, Cameroon, the United States, Saint Lucia, Canada, France and the United Republic of Tanzania, and by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

42. At the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

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Action taken by the Committee of Experts

43. At the 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/110).

K. Knowledge base for geospatial information management

44. The Committee of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.* Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat.

45. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Chile, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Belgium, and by the observer for the International Organization for Standardization.

46. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

47. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/111).

L. Review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

48. The Committee of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information mangement.* The Director of the Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

49. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Ethiopia, the United States, Australia, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand and Austria.

50. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

51. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/112).

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Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

52. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts.*

53. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Belgium (also on behalf of EuroGeographics and the Secretariat of the Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Italy and Ethiopia.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

54. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its seventh session, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

55. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its seventh session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017 (see chap. I, sect. A).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session

56. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016.

57. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its sixth session (E/C.20/2016/L.1), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of Norway, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, Germany, the United States, Belgium, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Brazil, Austria, Italy, Argentina, Jamaica, the Philippines and Denmark, and by the observer for the European Commission (Eurostat).

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

59. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its sixth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Co-Chair (United States) made a closing statement.

Chapter V

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

60. The Committee of Experts held its sixth session from 3 to 5 August 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Election of officers

61. At its 1st meeting, held on 3 August 2016, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:
Li Pengde (China)
Rolando Ocampo (Mexico)
Tim Trainor (United States of America)

Rapporteur:
Abdoulaye Belem (Burkina Faso)

C. Agenda and organization of work

62. At its 1st meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2016/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
10. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
11. Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
13. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.

14. Review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.

15. Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts.

16. Report of the Committee of Experts on its sixth session.

63. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work of the session.*

D. Attendance

64. The session was attended by 313 participants, including 240 representatives from 93 Member States and 5 representatives from 2 non-Member States. Also present were 68 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

65. The Committee also invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, Carleton University, CARTO, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Commission for GIScience of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, ConsultingWhere Ltd., Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management of the University of the West Indies, DigitalGlobe, Esri, EuroGeographics, GeoSpace, Geospatial Media and Communications, GeoSUR Programme, GeoThings, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, Group on Earth Observations, Hexagon Geospatial, Institute for Conscious Global Change, International Association of Geodesy, International Cartographic Association, International Federation of Surveyors, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, MapAction, Missile Defense Agency, Okavango Research Institute of the University of Botswana, Open Geospatial Consortium, Oracle Corporation, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Planet Labs, Remote Sensing Solutions, Inc., RIEGL Laser Measurement Systems, Spatial Data Holdings, Supreme GIS Services of Supreme and Co., the PYXIS innovation, University of Los Andes, University of Namibia, University of Salzburg.

E. Documentation

66. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its sixth session are available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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